

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2108

E O 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV WB GE US GW
SUBJ: SCHMIDT AND STOBBE DISCUSS BERLIN POLICY

REF: USBERLIN 1758

SUMMARY: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MET WITH GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE
IN BERLIN AUGUST 7 TO DISCUSS FUTURE STRATEGY ON BERLIN.
THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED IN THE PRESS AND BY
RATHAUS CONTACTS AS DEMONSTRATING A GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL
MEETING OF THE MINDS. THE MEETING ALSO LED TO THE RESOLUTION
OF ONE OR TWO MINOR POINTS OF IRRITATION FROM THE GOVERNING
MAYOR'S POINT OF VIEW. SCHMIDT INFORMED STOBBE THAT TALKS
BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS ON BERLIN
ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. END SUMMARY.

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A PRIVATE TRIP TO WEST BERLIN
AUGUST 7 FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT MET FOR TWO AND A
HALF HOURS WITH GOVERNING MAYOR DIETRICH STOBBE AT THE
LATTER'S HOME TO DISCUSS BERLIN POLICY. CONFIDANTS
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OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR HAVE TOLD US THAT THE MEETING WENT
VERY WELL. BOTH MEN WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING ON THE SAME
PHILOSOPHIC WAVE LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT OF BERLIN-FRG
RELATIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN'S TIES WITH THE
FRG. BOTH MEN AGREED THAT A PRAGMATIC APPROACH WAS MOST
LIKELY TO LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS ON SPECIFIC BERLIN
ISSUES SUCH AS THE REOPENING OF THE TELTOW CANAL, ESTAB-

LISHING A NORTHERN CROSSING POINT OUT OF BERLIN, THE EXPANSION OF THE SPANDAU LOCK AND UTILIZATION OF THE SUEDEGELAENDE.

2. ON POINTS WHERE DIFFERENCES HAD PREVIOUSLY EXISTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND THE CHANCELLOR WE ARE TOLD THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT. A NOTED REFTTEL, STOBBE HAD EXPRESSED A STRONG PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC IN JUNE TO HAVE FRG PERMANENT REP TO THE GDR GAUS LEAD UPCOMING FRG-GDR INSTEAD OF STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI. THERE HAS BEEN A FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT STOBBE PREFERRED GAUS OVER WISCHNEWSKI BECAUSE GAUS' PRIORITIES AS TO WHICH ISSUES SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE ATTENTION ARE CLOSER TO HIS OWN, AND BECAUSE STOBBE DID NOT LIKE TO SEE HIS ONE-TIME COMPETITOR FOR THE POSITION OF GOVERNING MAYOR GIVEN THE ROLE AS PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR WITH THE GDR ON BERLIN ISSUES. OUR SOURCES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT STOBBE'S MAYOR CONCERN WAS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE UNNECESSARILY DELAYED IF WISCHNEWSKI WERE TO READ THEM, WHEREAS PRESUMABLY WITH GAUS IN CHARGE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO START SOONER. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, SCHMIDT WAS ABLE TO ALLAY STOBBE'S FEARS ON THIS POINT AND PROMISED THAT OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GDR WOULD BEGIN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK.

3. SCHMIDT ALSO TOLD STOBBE THAT ONCE THE TALKS BEGIN IN BONN AND AN FRG "UMBRELLA" HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFIC BERLIN ISSUES (TELTOW CANAL, SPANDAU, LOCK, SUEDEGELAEND, NORTHERN CROSSING POINT) WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN TO BE NEGOTIATED AT THE GAUS-NIER LEVEL AND/OR WOULD BE TURNED OVER DIRECTLY TO TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN THE SENAT TO WORK OUT WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON THE GDR SIDE.

4. FOR HIS PART STOBBE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY ITEM FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE GDR IS A SOLUTION TO BERLIN'S ENERGY PROBLEM. STOBBE CONTINUES TO FAVOR SOME ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD TIE WEST BERLIN INTO THE FRG ELECTRIC POWER GRID. WE ARE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE KALININGRAD PROJECT IS NOT REALLY DEAD BECAUSE, ALLEGEDLY, BREZHNEV GAVE SCHMIDT HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT THE SUBJECT WAS STILL OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

5. AS A PASSING COMMENT OUR SOURCE INDICATED THAT STOBBE DOES NOT VIEW THE COMPLETION OF THE BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN AS BEING ANYWHERE NEARLY AS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE VITALITY OF THE CITY AS IN INSURING THE CITY'S POWER SUPPLY. HE RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THE AUTOBAHN

HAS A GREAT DEAL OF POPULAR APPEAL AND IS, THEREFORE,
PREPARED TO SEE IT REMAIN HIGH ON THE SENAT'S LIST
OF NEGOTIATING PRIORITIES.

6. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS AS WELL AS SOURCES CLOSE TO
THE GOVERNING MAYOR INDICATE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN
STOBBE AND THE CHANCELLOR ARE VERY GOOD. BOTH
MEN REPORTEDLY LIKE EACH OTHER, BASED IN PART ON THEIR
LONG ASSOCIATION IN BONN WHEN STOBBE WAS SENATOR
FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS. IN COMMENTING ON THE MEETING OUR
INFORMATS ALSO MADE A GOOD DEAL OF THE SIMILARITY OF THE
TWO MEN'S PERSONALITIES, AND THAT THEY BOTH HAD "NORTH
GERMAN MENTALITIES" WHICH PERMITTED THEM TO GET ALONG WELL.
OUR SOURCES ALSO CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE STRONG
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CONTRAST BETWEEN THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WHICH STOBBE HAS WITH
THE CHANCELLOR AND THE POOR STATE OF PERSONAL RELATIONS
WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN KLAUS SCHUETZ AND SCHMIDT AT THE END OF
SCHUETZ'S TERM OF OFFICE.GEORGE

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